

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 193717

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL BUKAVU

UNCLAS STATE 193717

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN: (BRANSFORD, RICHARD S.)

SUBJECT: JUDICIAL ASSISTANCE: CLIFFORD ABRAMSON V.

U.S., CIV C-75-187, E.D. WASH.; WITNESS, RICHARD S.

BRANSFORD.

1. PLAINTIFF IN ABOVE SUIT WAS OPERATED ON FOR HIATAL
HERNIA AT FAIRCHILD AFB HOSPITAL ON 2/13/74. FOLLOWING
OPERATION, HE DEVELOPED PARTIAL PARALYSIS (NOW PERMANENT),
DIAGNOSED AS BROWN-SEQUARD SYNDROME, WHICH HE ALLEGES
RESULTED FROM NEGLIGENCE OF DOCTORS WHO PERFORMED OPERA-
TION, INCLUDING DR. BRANSFORD.

2. GOVT ATTORNEYS BELIEVE THAT PARALYSIS WAS FREAK
RESPONSE, NOT RESULT OF NEGLIGENCE IN ADMINISTERING
ANAESTHESIA (AS PLAINTIFF ALLEGES), BUT FEEL THEIR CASE
WOULD BE GREATLY WEAKENED IF ANAESTHETIST DR. BRANSFORD,
WERE NOT PRESENT AT TRIAL TO REBUT TESTIMONY OF
PLAINTIFF'S WITNESSES.

3. JUSTICE DEPT THEREFORE REQUESTS EMBASSY'S ASSISTANCE
IN CONTACTING DR. BRANSFORD AT CENTRE MEDICAL EVANGELIQUE,

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PAGE 02 STATE 193717

BP. 55, BUNIA AND SECURING HIS COOPERATION IN COMING

TO U.S. FOR THE TRIAL. USG WILL PAY ALL TRAVEL EXPENSES
AND STATUTORY FEE OF DOLS 36 PER DAY. WITNESS WOULD HAVE
60-90 DAYS NOTICE, AND WOULD BE NEEDED IN SPOKANE FOR
APPROX 3 DAYS.

4. TRIAL WILL NOT BEGIN UNTIL AFTER JAN 1, 1977, BUT
JUSTICE WOULD APPRECIATE DR. BRANSFORD'S RESPONSE ASAP.
FULL TEXT OF JUSTICE LETTER TO DEPT BEING POUCHED, BUT
REQUEST PRELIMINARY REPLY BE ELICITED SOONEST FOR PLANNING
PURPOSES.

5. TELEGRAPH DR. BRANSFORD'S REPLY IN PRINCIPLE. HABIB

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